

Background:

The Project Development Committee will discuss project ideas to implement the current TCDD State Plan. The enclosed documents provide information to assist with that discussion.

- **State Plan Projects List** — The FY 2017 – FY 2021 State Plan requires specific projects to be implemented. This list includes projects that must be developed to address goals and objectives in the plan and provides the status of projects already addressed. Changes made since the last meeting are highlighted in yellow.
- **Idea Discussion Guide** – The Committee may use this list of questions for discussion when considering a new project idea or additional actions the Council might wish to take to maximize the impact of completed projects.
- **Executive Summaries** — TCDD staff prepared executive summaries for the following proposed projects that meet state plan requirements:
 1. **Leadership Development and Advocacy Training Projects: Rural Areas**
 2. **Peer Support Specialists for Individuals Living in Institutions**

The Committee will also discuss the outcomes of the recently completed Health and Fitness Projects. A summary of those projects is included behind TAB 13 to assist with that discussion.

Project Development Committee — Agenda Item 8**Expected Action:**

The Project Development Committee will consider the Executive Summaries and may recommend Council approval for funding.

Council — Agenda Item 9. C-D.**Expected Action:**

The Council will consider recommendations from the Project Development Committee.

State Plan Projects List Report August 2017

The following tables list State Plan Objectives for which projects must be implemented.

Projects Currently in Development

Objective number	Objective	Status
1.3	Develop at least five new programs that successfully support individuals with developmental disabilities to be included in post-secondary education.	Three almost completed; a project to create at least two more programs new programs has started.
2.1 Activity 6	Explore development of a Home and Community based services peer support program.	Developmental Disabilities Community Peer Support Specialists RFP was posted 6/30/17.
2.2	Collaborate with the Texas DD Network Partners to educate people about and increase the use of alternatives to guardianship.	Disability Rights Texas implementing one project. DD Network Partners considering possible expansion if needed. An additional Network project to gather stories about the impact of Medicaid Services and Supports has started.
3.1 Activity 4	Develop a plan and timeline to create a sibling network.	TCDD Executive Committee reviewing proposals 8/2/17.
3.1 Activity 5	Provide policy fellowships to train at least two people.	One Fellow funded in FY17. TCDD Executive Committee reviewing additional proposals 8/2/17.
3.1 Activity 6	Support the participation of people living in rural areas and people who self-identify as having a racial or ethnic minority background in TCDD leadership and advocacy projects.	Four projects address racial/ethnic and/or linguistic diversity. Executive Summary for project(s) in rural areas prepared for review 8/3/17.

Objective number	Objective	Status
3.2 Activity 2	Support people with developmental disabilities to provide mentoring and/or leadership development and advocacy skills training programs to people with developmental disabilities living in institutions.	Peer Support Specialists for Individuals in Institutions Executive Summary prepared for review 8/3/17.
3.2	Support people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy training. (required objective)	Grassroots Community Organizing project will be active until 2018. Local Self-Advocates Leadership Development and Advocacy Training RFP was posted 6/30/17.

Objectives Required to be Implemented Each Year

Objective number	Objective	Status
3.2	Support people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy training. (required objective)	Grassroots Community Organizing project in progress until 2018. Local Self-Advocates Leadership Development and Advocacy Training RFP posted 6/30/17.
3.3	Collaborate with at least one statewide self-advocacy network to increase their capacity to pursue their mission. (required objective)	Staff continue to collaborate with and provide support to Texas Advocates. Additional activities to increase their capacity to be considered.
3.4	Support self-advocates and family members to participate in cross-disability, culturally diverse leadership coalitions. (required objective)	Offer stipends to participate in statewide workgroups (through FY19). Project Development Committee suggested holding community conversations to explore ideas.

Objectives that must be Implemented by Fiscal Year 2021

Objective number	Objective	Status
1.2	Create training and information for people who have developmental disabilities and families on financial literacy, SSI/SSDI and benefits.	One project in progress; one to be developed (TBD).
1.4	Pilot at least one model that provides community-based, person-centered activities for people who are not employed and not in school.	Staff researching and working with stakeholders; not necessary to implement in FY17.
1.6	Pilot at least one program to provide community-based person-centered supports for people with complex medical and/or behavioral health needs, including mental health needs.	
1.8	Implement at least three projects to address specific needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who identify with a specific minority culture(s).	Two in progress. Outreach and Development RFP ongoing. Project Development Committee interested in exploring issues of high percentage of disconnected youth in McAllen, which is 91.2% Hispanic/Latino.
1.9	Pilot at least one practice to address the needs of people with developmental disabilities who are aging and their caregivers. Discussion to begin on 8/3/2017.	
1.10	Pilot at least one practice that supports organizations that serve the public to improve how they include and are responsive to the needs of people with developmental disabilities.	no data

Objective number	Objective	Status
2.2	Collaborate with the DD Network Partners to promote the use of person-centered practices.	
2.3	Collaborate with at least three community-based organizations to reduce linguistic and cultural barriers experienced by individuals who are Spanish-speaking.	Possibly a staff activity — Issue identified is Special Education Disparities experienced by students with disabilities who are Spanish-speaking.

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

FY 2017–2021 Five-Year State Plan Goals and Objectives

Goal 1:

Create and support promising practices that enable people with developmental disabilities to be fully included in their communities and to have control over their own lives by 9/30/2021.

Objective 1.1: Demonstrate at least three models that support people with disabilities to have employment of their choice by 9/31/2018.

- Texas Tech — Project SEARCH
- Educational Programs Inspiring Communities/HEART — Enabling Technology (Inventory Tracking System)
- Strategic Education Solutions — Enabling Technology (Web-based virtual job coach application)

Objective 1.2: Implement two programs to provide training and information to people who have developmental disabilities and their families on financial literacy, SSI/SSDI and health benefits by 1/1/2021.

- National Disability Institute (NDI) — Understanding Employment Options and Supports
- TBD — not necessary to be implemented in Year 1

Objective 1.3: Develop at least five new programs that demonstrate success at supporting individuals with developmental disabilities to be more fully included in post-secondary education by 5/31/2021.

- Texas Tech — Project CASE
- Texas A&M — Bridge to Career in Human Service
- DARS — Project HIRE
- Higher Education Collaborative — Texas A&M
- TBD

Objective 1.4: Pilot at least one new model that provides community-based person-centered activities for people with developmental disabilities who are not employed and not in school by 9/30/2021.

- TBD — not necessary to be implemented in Year 1

Objective 1.5: Demonstrate at least three new models that support individuals with disabilities to improve or maintain their health by 3/31/2018.

- Any Baby Can — Any Body Can
- Epilepsy Foundation — Get FIT Texas
- Statewide Independent Living Council — Getting Fit to Live, Work, and Play

Objective 1.6: Pilot at least one new community-based person-centered practice that ensures that people with complex medical and/or behavioral health needs, including mental health needs, receive appropriate and timely services by 9/30/2021.

- TBD — not necessary to be implemented in Year 1

Objective 1.7: Each year of the plan, provide support to stakeholders to participate in transportation planning activities that increase mobility and availability of accessible transportation.

- Statewide Independent Living Council — Transportation Works

Objective 1.8: Implement at least three projects that address specific needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who identify with a specific minority culture(s) by 9/30/2021.

- Light and Salt Association — Culturally Appropriate Family Supports
- Reaching Families Advocacy and Support Group — Culturally Appropriate Family Supports
- Outreach and Development (Grantees TBD)

Objective 1.9: Pilot at least one practice that addresses the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who are aging, and their caregivers by 9/30/2021.

- TBD

Objective 1.10: Pilot at least one practice that supports organizations, agencies, groups, or individuals that provide services to the general public to fully include and be responsive to the needs of people with developmental disabilities by 9/30/2021.

- TBD

Goal 2:

Improve and/or expand community-based systems to better support people with developmental disabilities or families of children with developmental disabilities to be fully included in their communities by 9/30/2021.

Objective 2.1: Each year of the plan, promote systems that will sustain the policies and programs that demonstrate success in supporting people with developmental disabilities or families of people with developmental disabilities to be fully included in their communities.

- Volar Center for Independent Living — Building Community Capacity through Collaboration
- Community Healthcore — Building Community Capacity through Collaboration

Objective 2.2: Collaborate with the Texas Developmental Disabilities Network Partners (the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University, the Texas Center for Disability Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, and Disability Rights Texas) to promote person-centered practices and educate people with developmental disabilities and their families about, and increase the use of, alternatives to guardianship by 9/30/2021.

- Alternatives to Guardianship training project
- Impact of Medicaid Services and Supports DD Network Project (objective will be edited to include this activity)

Objective 2.3: Collaborate with at least three community-based organizations to reduce linguistic and cultural barriers that prevent individuals who are Spanish — speaking from receiving services by 9/30/2021.

- TBD – not necessary to be implemented in Year 1

Objective 2.4: Each year of the plan, advocate for legislative/policy change to improve educational outcomes and remove barriers to full-time or part-time employment for people with developmental disabilities.

- Region 17 Education Service Center — Families in Schools

Goal 3:

Increase the access that individuals with developmental disabilities and families of individuals with developmental disabilities have to information, training, and support to advocate for themselves and/or to collaborate with allies to impact public policy, service systems, and community supports.

Objective 3.1: Support at least nine leadership development and advocacy skills training programs for people with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, and allies by 9/30/2021.

- SAFE — Youth Leadership
- Mounting Horizons — Youth Leadership
- Educational Programs Inspiring Communities — Youth Leadership
- Family to Family — Leadership Development and Advocacy Training
- Paso Del Norte Children's Center — Leadership Development and Advocacy Training
- Easter Seals Central Texas — Leadership Development and Advocacy Training

- Leadership Development and Advocacy Training — Self Advocates (grantee TBD)
- Partners in Policymaking (Johnson Applied Solutions)
- Support for people underserved or unserved — Leadership Development and Advocacy Training (grantees and activities TBD)
- Sibling Network
- TCDD Policy Fellowships — EveryChild, Inc

Objective 3.2: Support people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training programs to people with developmental disabilities each year.

- Texas Advocates — Grassroots Community Organizing
- Self-Advocates as Mentors/Trainers to People in Institutions (grantee(s) TBD)
- Peer Support Specialist (grantee TBD)

Objective 3.3: Collaborate with at least one statewide self-advocacy organization run by people with developmental disabilities to create opportunities to increase their ability to strengthen their organization and pursue their mission by 9/30/2021.

- TBD
- Public Policy activities

Objective 3.4: Support self-advocates and family members to participate in cross-disability, culturally diverse leadership coalitions each year.

- Center for Disability Studies — Stipends to support self-advocates and family members on boards and committees

Goal 4:

Ensure there is ongoing support and technical assistance for the Council to identify and engage in issues according to the Council's priorities and mission.

Objective 4.1: Each year of the plan, provide written and/or verbal public policy input on behalf of TCDD regarding issues that impact the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Objective 4.2: Each year of the plan, organize and conduct communications activities to increase connections to organizations and individuals.

Objective 4.3: Each year of the plan, evaluate and/or address opportunities to develop or incorporate new promising practices that would improve TCDD's ability to achieve the Council's mission.

Project Development Committee — Idea Discussion Guide

Questions to be considered when discussing a new project idea:

1. What is the issue or gap in the system that needs to be addressed?
2. What group or groups of people with disabilities would benefit from addressing this issue?
 - A. Consider: Geographic area(s); age(s); disability type(s); race/ethnicity; people who speak different languages; income; education
3. What state plan objective does this address?
4. What public policy priority does this address?
5. How has this issue been addressed to date?
 - A. Previous or current TCDD Grant?
 - B. Effort from other organization or state agency? Who?
 - C. What was the result?
 - D. How have other states addressed this?
6. How would TCDD build on current and/or previous efforts? (Describe specific activities)
 - A. Advocacy — Telling others about issues, needs, and possible solutions.
 - B. Capacity Building — Helping communities and other groups build their resources.
 - C. Systems Change — Changing the way government programs, state agencies, and other organizations do business every day to improve support for people with disabilities.
7. Who is ultimately responsible for this issue in our system long term?
 - A. Individuals with DD, Families, Service Providers, Community organizations, State agencies, leaders/policy makers.
8. What disparity or disproportionalities exist related to this project?
9. Is addressing this issue feasible?

Funding Proposal Executive Summary

Peer Support Specialists for Individuals Living in Institutions

Project Goal

Three projects will develop and pilot peer supports and training programs for individuals who live in institutions — state supported living centers (SSLCs), nursing homes, or intermediate care facilities (ICF-DD) settings — so they understand their rights, learn about opportunities available in communities, and can lead or actively participate in their own person centered planning process.

Relationship to TCDD State Plan Goals

Goal 3 Increase the access that individuals with developmental disabilities and families of individuals with developmental disabilities have to information, training, and support to advocate for themselves and/or to collaborate with allies to impact public policy, service systems, and community supports.

Objective 3.2. Support people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training programs to people with developmental disabilities each year by 9/30/2021.

Funding and Duration

TCDD will fund up to 3 projects at \$125,000 each year for up to five years.

Background

Residents of institutions report a decrease in receiving information about their individual rights. The Office of Independent Ombudsman (OIO) noted in a 2015 report only 46 percent of residents could identify their rights.

People living in institutions often lack the skills needed to actively participate in the development of their own personal plan. In addition, they may not envision all the opportunities available to them if others typically make decisions for them. Peer support models have been used to great success in the behavioral health community. Peer Support Specialists who have developmental disabilities can help residents with developmental disabilities to build skills for person centered planning, explore opportunities, and identify possible barriers to achieving their goals.

People with developmental disabilities who are living independently in the community - especially those who once lived in an institution — may be best positioned to assist their peers currently living in an institution. A peer can listen and provide encouragement, guidance, teaching, suggestions, and a bridge to exploring personal interests, including those available only in the community.

TCDD provided funding from 3/1/12 — 2/28/15 for Project SAVE, which provided training and information to individuals with developmental disabilities, including State Supported

Living Center (SSLC) residents. States such as Michigan and Virginia established similar programs for persons in community based settings. In addition to TCDD, others have expressed interest in this type of project:

- The SAVE advisory committee, which included former residents and the Human Rights Coordinator for the SSLC division of the Health and Human Services Commission, supported the development of another project to build on their success.
- Community organizations have developed proposals to fund self-advocates to work with individuals with developmental disabilities living in nursing homes.
- The Medicaid/CHIP Division of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has expressed interest in promoting peer supports and partnering in the development and implementation of a training program developed through this project.

Thus far, TCDD has identified no other funding to develop and sustain the type of project described above, although it appears it might be possible in the future. Legislation was proposed in the 85th Texas Legislature (R) directing the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the OIO for SSLCs to establish a peer support program, such as that existing in the mental health service system, for residents of institutions for people with developmental disabilities. The legislation did not pass. Having data from a demonstration and model(s) would help support and direct funding for this type of program statewide in the future.

Definitions

Peer Support Specialists are individuals who:

- have a developmental disability;
- live and are active in the community; and
- have skills to provide training and supports to peers.

Peer Support Specialists must demonstrate respect the individual's culture, beliefs and preferences, even if that individual makes choices they might not make.

Coaches are individuals who may or may not have a developmental disability who will provide support, information, and direct assistance to the Peer Support Specialists to develop specific action plans to make sure the peer's plan is implemented. TCDD will also expect Coaches to respect an individual's culture, beliefs, and preferences.

Project Description

Over the five years this project is funded, the grantee will:

- Research and incorporate useful ideas from similar projects.
- Build relationships with residents, legally authorized representatives, the OIO and other state agency program staff.
- Conduct outreach to identify a diverse group of individuals with developmental disabilities to work as Peer Support Specialists.
- Hold listening sessions to capture stories and lessons learned.

- Develop a training curriculum for Peer Support Specialists and Coaches. The training must include, at a minimum:
 - Mentoring skills;
 - Resident rights;
 - Formal and informal services and supports that foster self-determination and independence;
 - Person-centered thinking; and
 - Person-centered planning.
- Develop job descriptions for Peer Support Specialists and their coaches.
- Train at least 25 people with developmental disabilities to provide peer supports.
- Ensure Peer Support Specialists are paid and ensure they have needed supports in place.
- Identify and train coaches.
- Pilot the program.
- Provide training to individuals with developmental disabilities living in institutions.
- Support each Peer Support Specialist to assist at least ten individuals with developmental disabilities to understand opportunities and supports and to incorporate their preferences in their person-centered plan.
- Evaluate the project and use the information gained to improve the training.
- Develop a plan to include peer supports in the policies and procedures associated with administration of current programs.
- Prepare a training manual and share the information with statewide audiences.
- Consult with TCDD, HHSC, on program design, implementation, and policies and procedures as needed.

Other Considerations

The training developed through this project will not duplicate the work of Texas' Institute for Person-Centered Practices. However, TCDD expects the philosophy behind the training to be consistent with Person-Centered Practices and recommends that the grantee collaborate with the Institute.

TCDD will work with the Medicaid/CHIP Division of HHSC to determine if a certification is desirable.

Funding Proposal Executive Summary

Leadership Development and Advocacy Training Projects: Rural Areas

Background

TCDD includes multiple objectives in its 2017-2021 State Plan to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training to support individuals in creating systems change. TCDD strives to assist with the development of leaders and advocates statewide and include diverse individuals in multiple locations around the state. There is an ongoing need to develop programs located in rural areas, and in areas with a high percentage of people living in poverty. Advocacy training programs are also needed that can recruit and provide culturally appropriate training to people who are African American, Latino, Native American, or Asian. Currently, there are no TCDD funded leadership development projects in the designated rural areas of Texas.

State Plan Goal

Goal 3: Increase the access that individuals with developmental disabilities and families of individuals with developmental disabilities have to information, training, and support to advocate for themselves and/or to collaborate with allies to impact public policy, service systems and community supports.

Objective 3.1: Support at least nine leadership development and advocacy skills training programs for people with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities and allies by 9/30/21.

The following organizations were each awarded \$75,000 per year, for up to five years, to provide leadership development and advocacy training; they are completing their second year:

- Easter Seals Central Texas (individuals with developmental disabilities)
- Family to Family (individuals with developmental disabilities, family members and community members)
- Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center (individuals with developmental disabilities and family members)

A Request for Proposals for a fourth Leadership Development and Advocacy project has been posted to fund a local self-advocacy group to implement a leadership and advocacy training.

Additionally, three Youth Leadership projects have been approved for funding and will begin in the summer of 2017:

- Educational Programs Inspiring Communities, Inc. (ages 16-22; also employment-related)
- Mounting Horizons (ages 14-22)
- SAFE Alliance (18-22; also incorporates training to develop meaningful relationships)

Multiple projects enable TCDD to include advocates of all ages, geographic locations, and diverse groups.

Expected Outcome

Groups or organizations in rural areas of the state will provide leadership development and advocacy skills training for at least 50 people each year, on average, and document that:

- at least 80% of trainees demonstrate perceived improvement in their knowledge and ability to advocate for themselves and others; and
- at least 10% of trainees have continued involvement in leadership roles or public advocacy after the end of the project.

Project Description

Up to 3 projects will provide leadership development and advocacy skills training using TCDD approved curriculum. Project staff will determine the curriculum to be used and how the training will be provided. Training must include:

- History and philosophy of the disability rights movement;
- Principles of self-determination;
- Strategies to find and access necessary services and supports;
- Activities to develop self-advocacy skills; and
- Activities to promote interaction between participants and peer support.

For this project, the applicants are limited to those groups and organizations located in designated rural areas of the State. Training participants may include individuals with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, and other interested community members who do not fall into either of these categories. Priority shall be given to support the participation of individuals with developmental disabilities; spouses or partners of individuals with developmental disabilities; and other family members of adults with developmental disabilities. Space permitting, other community members may attend training.

Because it is unlikely that any one organization can provide enough resources to meet the demand, it is imperative that organizations who offer this kind of training work together with others in the community to share expertise, to explore ways to maximize and/or increase their available resources, and to develop a means to continue to support training after TCDD funding has ended.

Organizations implementing the training may charge a reasonable fee for training or for Continuing Education Units, but must ensure that any person with a developmental disability and family members of a person with a developmental disability will be able to participate, regardless of ability or inability to pay. TCDD will have final approval of any fee structure and procedure.

All organizations must have procedures in place to obtain contact information (including e-mail addresses) from participants and to inform participants that their contact information will be forwarded to TCDD so that TCDD may provide information related to advocacy opportunities to advocates. Grantees should forward to TCDD names of all individuals trained and track those who participate in ongoing advocacy, advanced training or serve on a boards or committees.

Proposed Funding Amount

Up to \$85,000 for up to three projects, per year, for up to five years. Up to \$25,000 in additional

funding may be made available to provide reasonable accommodations to Project Directors or Project Coordinators who have a developmental disability if accommodations are necessary and exceed the amount the organization can afford.

The suggested funding amount for these projects would allow the grantee to support participation of participants in rural areas who may have to travel long distances, have reduced access to transportation, and/or may be living in poverty.

Proposed Duration

Up to five years

Considerations

To increase the diversity of organizations that receive grants, TCDD could give priority to organizations that have not had any, or that have had few, previous TCDD grants. TCDD staff expects that grant reporting requirements, which will include additional measurement activities for new federally required Performance Measures, may require additional staff time or a sub-contractor.